

TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome you to our worship. We have a nursery lovingly and carefully attended by church members and childcare following the Time with the Children for ages two through kindergarten. If you have questions, please see an usher and they will be happy to assist you.

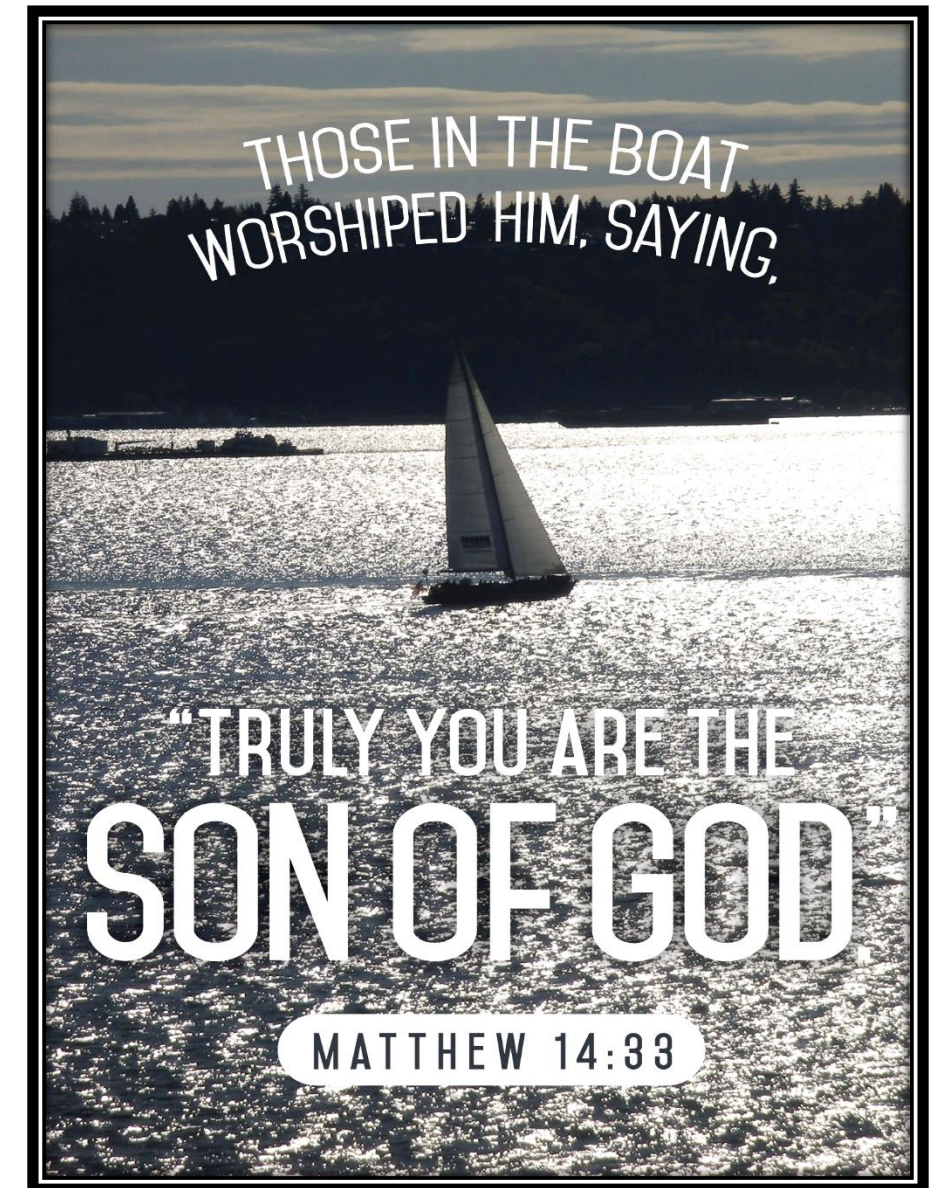
Special Thanks to . . .

Roxanne Holt-Watson, our guest organist this Sunday. We welcome Roxanne again to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!

SERMON NOTES

THIS WEEK AT BPC	LOOKING AHEAD
<p>The Cabarrus County LunchPlus Club for Seniors provides Indoor Dining and Meal Pickup in the BPC Fellowship Hall, Monday – Friday. Doors open 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Lunch serving times – 11:30 AM – 12:15 PM. Closed Monday, July 4th!</p>	
<p><u>Sunday, July 3</u> 10¢-A-Meal Offering to be received 9:00 AM – Children’s Sunday School – Room 202 9:30 AM – Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM – Worship Service</p> <p><u>Monday, July 4</u> Independence Day – Church office closed No LunchPlus Club today</p> <p><u>Tuesday, July 5</u> 6:30 PM – Circle 1 at El Amigo Mexican Restaurant</p> <p><u>Wednesday, July 6</u> 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><u>Sunday, July 10</u> 9:00 AM – Children’s Sunday School – Room 202 9:00 AM – Sunday School – Room 200 10:00 AM – Worship Service with Communion 4:00 – 6:00 PM – “Conversations of Hope” with Ada Bowens in BPC Fellowship Hall</p> <p><u>Wednesday, July 13</u> 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><u>Thursday, July 14</u> 6:30 PM – Personnel Committee</p> <p><u>Sunday, July 17</u> 9:00 AM – Children’s Sunday School – Room 202 9:00 AM – Sunday School – Room 200 10:00 AM – Worship Service</p>

THE SESSION OF OUR CHURCH	CLASS OF 2022
Valerie Hicks, <i>Moderator</i> Sherry Shifflett, <i>Clerk</i>	Connie Goodman, <i>Worship</i> Christel Josey, <i>Property</i> Dougie Kirkman, <i>Property</i>
CLASS OF 2023	CLASS OF 2024
Richie Goodman, <i>Stewardship</i> Ed Kusper, <i>Nurture</i> Melissa Wright	Chris Ferguson, <i>Mission/Evangelism</i> Hannah Jackson, <i>Communications</i> Sherry Shifflett, <i>Personnel</i>



Welcome to Bethpage Presbyterian Church!
July 3, 2022

*“A family of faith in Jesus Christ,
 yesterday, today, and tomorrow.”*

We are excited that you have joined us in worshipping God today. Whether you are just visiting, looking to stay or have worshipped here your whole life, it is great to worship the Lord together this day!



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 e-mail: info@bethpagechurch.org

Rev. Valerie Hicks
 704-712-7533 • valerie@bethpagechurch.org

The Service for the Lord's Day Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

July 3, 2022

10:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE "Adagio" Tomaso Albinoni

SILENT PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

O Lord our God, you are always more ready to bestow your good gifts upon us than we are to seek them. You are more willing to give than we desire or deserve. Help us to seek that we may truly find, so to ask that we may joyfully receive, so to knock that the door of your mercy may be opened for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY CHIMES

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

In this land of freedom and beauty, let us give thanks to God.

Let us praise the Holy One who created the blue lakes and grassy prairies, the vast desert lands, and the breathtaking mountains of our homeland.

Let us unite in worship of the Creator who formed all lands and all people,

And who declared, without hesitation, "It is good."

Come, let us worship God.

***HYMN #262** "God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of all nations, we praise You that in Christ the barriers that have separated humanity are torn down. Yet we confess our slowness to open our hearts and minds to those of other lands, tongues, and races. Deliver us from the sins of fear and prejudice, that we may move toward the day when all are truly one in Jesus Christ. Help us perceive the opportunities You place before us. We are often caught up in our own hopes, plans, and fantasies, and crushed when they disappoint us. Forgive us when we are slow to see the open pathways You set before us. Open our eyes, that we may accept the new life You offer us, and thus show forth the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hear our silent prayers . . . (Please take a moment for silent confession.)

RESPONSE HYMN "You are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!"

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Listen, here is the good news: Jesus said, "The one who comes to me I will not turn away." Jesus Christ has come to forgive us in our failures, to accept us as we are, to set us free, and to make us what we were meant to be. Praise be His name!

Listen, we will. Called, we are. By God's grace and mercy we will live in His freedom and be His disciples. Amen!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE**

"Glory Be to the Father" GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

THE WORD

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM "Distant Land"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Jean Brown

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 58:3-8 (Pew Bible, p. 688)

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 14:22-36 (Pew Bible, p. 16)

SERMON "The Lake and Freedom" Rev. Valerie Hicks

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from Declaration of Faith

God rules over both political and religious institutions. We must confuse neither with the kingdom of God. We must not equate the Christian faith with any nation's way of life or with opposition to the ideologies of other nations. We believe God sends us to work with others to correct the growing disparity between rich and poor nations, to achieve fair legislation justly administered and enforced, to make the operation of courts and penal institutions more just and humane. We are charged to root out prejudice and racism from our hearts and institutions. We acknowledge God is at work here and now. Amen.

***HYMN #564** "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"
(The Presbyterian Hymnal)

GIVING GOD OUR OFFERING and OUR 10¢-A-MEAL OFFERING

Offertory "Meditation" Jacob Arcadelt

*Doxology (sung)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Source of life and Bringer of light to the nations, you provide for all our needs. We bring your gifts in response to your goodness. We thank you for sending Christ into our midst. Use what we offer, to enlighten all people to the truth of his salvation, and bless all our endeavors as we seek faithfully in Christ's name to do your will. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

THE SENDING

***HYMN** "This Is My Song"

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

***POSTLUDE** "Fugue" Johann Pachelbel

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*An asterisk indicates that all who are able may stand.